

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 CPR-01 L-03
PER-01 SP-02 INR-10 SY-05 INRE-00 /048 W
-----045702 171320Z /42
O 171239Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8080

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 1757

DEPT PLS PASS USDEL SECY IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, ET, US
SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN REQUEST FOR RECALL OF POLITICAL COUNSELOR

REF: A) ADDIS 1748; B) ADDIS 1716; C) STATE 097601

1. MOFA AMERICAS DIVISION HEAD BERHANE DERESSE, HAVING CALLED ME IN AND REQUESTED I COME ALONE, MADE CLEAR FROM START WHAT WE HAD ALL SUSPECTED (REFTEL B AND PREVIOUS), I.E., PMGSE DESIRE THAT POLCOUNS HERB MALIN LEAVE THE COUNTRY. (MALIN USUALLY ACCOMPANIED ME TO MEETINGS AT MOFA.) WHAT REMAINED TO BE SEEN WERE TIMING CONDITIONS AND REASONS.

2. BERHANE WAS MORE CHOKED UP THAN I HAVE EVER SEEN HIM AND OBVIOUSLY DREADED TASK. AS WE KNOW FROM OTHER SOURCES, HE WAS ONE OF FEW WHO FOUGHT BATTLE NOT TO EXPEL MALIN. STATING "MY GOVERNMENT VIEWS RATHER SERIOUSLY THE ACTIVITIES OF MR HERBERT MALIN AND HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO ASK YOU TO INFORM YOUR GOVERNMENT THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE HIS IMMEDIATE REPATRIATION TO US." HE WENT ON, "THIS DECISION WAS REACHED IN THE INTEREST OF PROTECTING OUR RELATIONS WITH US. BERHANE THEN SAID ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION REACHING MOFA FROM DIFFERENT ETHIOPIAN SOURCES, CONCLUSION WAS REACHED THAT MALIN'S "CONTINUED PRESENCE WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE IN-
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TEREST OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE WITH US." THIS COURSE OF ACTION WAS TAKEN AFTER CONSIDERATION OF SEVERAL ALTERNATIVES, BERHANE SAID, PARTICULARLY DECLARING HIM PERSONAL NON GRATA. "WE HOPE, THEREFORE, DEPT WILL COOPERATE IN THIS REQUEST." HE ENDED INITIAL PRESENTATION BY INFORMING ME THAT ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY/WASHINGTON HAD ALREADY BEEN INSTRUCT-
ED SAME MORNING TO RAISE MATTER AT "HIGHEST LEVEL OF STATE

DEPARTMENT."

3. AS REPORTED REFTEL A, I TOLD BERHANE MY EXPERIENCE WAS THAT DEPT WOULD FEEL IT HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ACCEDE TO MOFA REQUEST. I PREFERRED TO AWAIT INSTRUCTIONS FOR OFFICIAL USG REACTION, BUT ASKED WHAT MOFA HAD IN MIND BY "IMMEDIATE" DEPARTURE AND ASKED FOR EXPLANATION OF MOFA REQUEST. BERHANE SAID MINISTRY HAD NO DESIRE TO CAUSE "INCONVENIENCE TO MR MALIN OR HIS FAMILY," INTIMATING ANYTHING WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS WOULD BE OKAY, BUT AGAIN HE STRESSED WE SHOULD TAKE TERM "IMMEDIATE" SERIOUSLY.

4. BERHANE OBVIOUSLY WISHED TO AVOID GIVING EXPLANATION FOR EXPULSION. I SAID THAT IN VIEW OF TWO-DAY INTERROGATION OF ETHIOPIAN EMPLOYEE WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED MALIN TO DESSIE WEEK BEFORE LAST, I COULD ONLY CONCLUDE MOFA ACTION WAS RELATED TO TRIP. I RECALLED THAT MALIN HAD PROCEEDED TO DESSIE ON MY INSTRUCTIONS TO RETRIEVE ICA EQUIPMENT AFTER WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM PERMSEC MINEDUCATION AND LATTER HAD GOTTEN SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION FROM WOLLO PROVINCE PMAC REPRESENTATIVE. I REITERATED POSITION TAKEN WHEN BERHANE HAD RAISED SUBJECT "OFF THE RECORD" NEARLY TWO WEEKS AGO THAT MALIN HAD PROCEEDED TO DESSIE AFTER NOTIFYING MOFA SEVERAL WEEKS EARLIER, MUCH AS HE HAD DURING SIMILAR TRIP TO LEKEMPT AND IN SAME MANNER OF ITALIAN AMBASSADOR WHEN HE HAD MADE HIS TRIP TO DESSIE A FEW MONTHS AGO.
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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USDEL SECY.

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 CPR-01 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8081

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 1757

DEPT PLS PASS USDEL SECY IMMEDIATE

IN MEANTIME WHOLE DIP CORPS, I SAID, IS SEARCHING EMBASSIES' FILES, AND SO FAR NONE HAS TURNED UP ANY INSTRUCTIONS FROM MOFA REQUIRING THEM TO SEEK AUTHORIZATION BEFORE UNDERTAKING TRIPS. OBVIOUSLY, EMBASSY HAD NOT ATTEMPTED TO VISIT AREAS WHERE PMGSE WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY ASSURING SECURITY, BUT SUCH WAS NOT CASE IN DESSIE.

5. BERHANE WOULD NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THAT DESSIE JOURNEY WAS MAIN CAUSE MOFA DECISION, PROBABLY, BECAUSE AS WE KNOW, MOFA IS ALSO SEARCHING IN VAIN FOR ALLEGED INSTRUCTIONS TO SEEK AUTHORIZATION. INSTEAD HE SAID, "I AM TOLD THAT DECISION WAS MADE AFTER LONG OBSERVATION OF MR MALIN'S BEHAVIOR AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS ETHIOPIA. HIS ATTITUDE AND MANNERS ARE KIND THAT WOULD FURTHER AGGRAVATE RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND ETHIOPIA." HE THEN SAID, " UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES WE COULD TOLERATE IT," THEREBY IMPLICITLY BUT CORRECTLY INDICATING CIRCUMSTANCES ARE NOT NORMAL NOWADAYS. HE THEN MADE THE OUTRAGEIOUS STATEMENT THAT "FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, HE HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF NOT PROCEEDING ACCORDING TO ELEMENTARY ETHNICS OF DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL. THIS IS BASIS ON WHICH GOVT DECIDED TO REQUEST USG TO RECALL HIM" BERHANE THEN ASSURED ME THAT HIS STATEMENT WAS MILD COMPARED TO THE "ANGER GENERATED AT VERY TOP LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT BY HIS BEHAVIOR."

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6. SINCE RETURNING TO EMBASSY, I HAVE INFORMED BERHANE THAT MALIN HAS RESERVATIONS TO ROME ON AZ 869 MORNING APRIL 19 AND THAT HIS FAMILY WOULD BE LEAVING LATER AS SOON AS THEY COULD GET PACKED UP. MALIN MIGHT WANT TO HAVE DAUGHTER FINISH SCHOOL YEAR IN EARLY JUNE. BERHANE HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED MATTER OF FAMILY STAYING ON WITH MINISTER AFTER I HAD LEFT HIS OFFICE AND MINISTER HAD ASKED THAT WE BE ASSURED MOFA WOULD BE FULLY CONSIDERATE OF MALIN FAMILY WISHES. APRIL 19 DEPARTURE WAS, THEREFORE, OBVIOUSLY SATISFACTORY.

7. PMGSE DECISION TO REQUEST MALIN'S RECALL CANNOT BE BASED ON TRIP TO DESSIE ALONE, BUT IS REFLECTIVE OF HIGHLY CHARGED MANNER IN WHICH TOP LEVELS VIEW RELATIONS WITH USG. THIS WAS A CHEAP ONE FOR OUR NEBULOUS GROUP OF MODERATE, NOT ANTI-US FRIENDS TO LOSE.

8. I RECOMMEND THAT DEPT ACKNOWLEDGE THAT PMGSE HAS MADE REQUEST FOR MALIN'S RECALL AND THAT IT HAS AUTHORIZED HIS DEPARTURE (REFTEL C). HOWEVER, ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING MALIN'S

BEHAVIOR AND MANNERS ARE TOTALLY UNFOUNDED. ON A PERSONAL BASIS, HIS BEHAVIOR HAS BEEN BEYOND REPROACH; HE IS INVARIABLY COURTEOUS TO ETHIOPIANS, AND THE VIEWS HE HAS EXPRESSED IN A TACTFUL MANNER ARE THOSE OF HIS GOVERNMENT.
MATHERON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY.

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